

**Official Minutes of the  
Oak Park Board of Education District 97,  
970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois  
Meeting - August 23, 2011**

President Barber called the meeting to order at 6:43 p.m.

Present: Barber, Gates, Sacks, Traczyk, Reddy, Spatz, and O'Connor

Absent: None

ROLL CALL

Also Present: Superintendent Al Roberts, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations Therese O'Neill, Human Resources Director Trish Carlson, Director of Policy, Planning and Communications Chris Jasculca, Director of Special Education Mike Padavic, PMA representative Liz Hennessy, and Substitute Board Secretary Tulicia Edwards

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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Sacks moved, seconded by Traczyk, that the Board of Education move into executive session at 6:43 p.m. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Sacks, Traczyk, Reddy, Gates, Barber, O'Connor, and Spatz

Nays: None

Also present: Dr. Roberts, Therese O'Neill, Trish Carlson and Tulicia Edwards

**OPEN SESSION**

OPEN SESSION

By unanimous vote, the Board of Education moved into open session at 7 p.m.

**Consent Agenda**

CONSENT AGENDA

Barber moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the revised consent agenda. Roll call vote.

2.2.1 Bill Lists and Related Reports

2.3.1 Personnel Action as presented

Ayes: Barber, Sacks, Gates, Traczyk, Spatz, O'Connor, and Reddy

Nays: None

Motion passed.

New hires were introduced to the Board.

SPECIAL REPORTS

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**DSEB OPTIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES**

Therese O'Neill and Elizabeth Hennessy from PMA presented DSEB options and opportunities to the Board. Hennessy discussed the Debt Service Fund Analysis and the project needs over the next three to five years, reporting that the capital needs summary totals \$16,999,000. Options included non-referendum bonds not exceeding the Debt Service Extension Base or interest rate and yield curves.

Discussion took place regarding the condition of the district's administration building and need for repairs or relocation. It was noted that the FORC has been discussing this

need and may be able to supply a timeline. It was noted that some repairs have been made to the existing building; however, there are plumbing and electrical issues. Concern was expressed regarding the need for clarification on this topic. It was noted that the Board has not discussed the needs of the administration building in detail prior to this meeting. Additional discussion on this topic would be necessary, and it was suggested that FORC review this option in greater detail. It was noted that enough referendum dollars should be available to complete some of the project without assuming additional debt. O'Neill commented that the DSEB was intended to assist in carrying out the vision, not finance it in full.

A list of recommended capital improvements was shared, noting that the community might express concern over some of the items. A list addressing multiple years with fewer items identified was suggested. Additionally, it was suggested that prioritization was necessary. Hennessy agreed to rework the plan and return to the Board. It was noted that some of the Board members are in support of some of the improvements, which would require borrowing \$4 million to \$5 million. It was reported that FORC is scheduled to meet next Wednesday evening and will discuss this in more detail.

#### **SPECIAL EDUCATION UPDATE**

Mike Padavic introduced the special education staff and highlighted professional development and training completed last year. Padavic noted that District 97 is currently the University of Illinois' intern site for occupational and physical therapy positions. Additionally, SLANT certification, evaluations and institute day training for teacher assistants were addressed. Padavic reported that new coordinator accomplishments for 2010 included monitoring outside placement. They also provided technical assistance to teachers, administrators and parents. Parent surveys were sent to 800 families. The response was slightly higher than last year and positive results were featured on many of them.

Padavic reported that, during the 2011-12 school year, special education will continue to build strong professional teams, working with appropriate parent groups to create parent advisory goals, and using IEPs to produce measurable data driven goals. He also said students will continue to participate in the Special Olympics.

Board comments and suggestions included acknowledging the loyalty among the special education staff. It was also noted that the retention of special education staff appears to be lower than general education. Interest was expressed in knowing if the special education department is in compliance with the federal board. Additionally, interest was expressed in knowing how many of the 66 out-of-district students would be able to stay in district if an alternative school was opened within the district. Interest was expressed in knowing if the department is aware of the healthy initiative for the Special Olympics. Parochial school funding was questioned, noting that funding has been lowered which causes the need for a waitlist of students who need services. Additionally, more specific information on the services provided to the parochial schools was requested. Finally, the department was applauded for collaborating with universities and gaining graduates with updated training.

PUBLIC COMMENT

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**ACTION ITEMS****2.1.1 Approval of Minutes of July 26, 2011**

Barber moved, seconded by Gates, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the minutes from the July 26, 2011 meeting as presented. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Barber, Gates, Sacks, O'Connor, Reddy, and Spatz  
 Nays: None  
 Abstained: Traczyk  
 Motion passed.

**2.2.2 Appointment of IMRF District Agent**

Reddy moved, seconded by Spatz, that the Board of Education, of Oak Park District 97, appoint Tulicia Edwards as the Authorized Agent for the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Reddy, Spatz, Traczyk, Gates, Sacks, O'Connor, Barber  
 Nays: None  
 Motion passed.

**2.4.1 Recertification of Hazardous Crossing**

Gates moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education, of Oak Park District 97, recertify previously identified hazardous routes and forward same to the State Superintendent of Education per Section 29-C of the Illinois School Code. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Gates, Sacks, Reddy, Traczyk, O'Connor, Barber, and Spatz  
 Nays: None  
 Motion passed.

**2.4.2 Adoption of the PMA Resolution**

Spatz moved, seconded by Reddy, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the attached resolution for formal approval of the treasurer's participation in the fund by the Board of the school entity on behalf of which the treasurer acts. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Spatz, Reddy, Traczyk, O'Connor, Barber, Sacks, and Gates  
 Nays: None  
 Motion passed.

**2.4.3 Approval of Crossing Guards Agreement**

Sacks moved, seconded by O'Connor, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the intergovernmental cooperation agreement between the Board of Education of Oak Park Elementary School District 97 and the Village of Oak Park regarding the provision of crossing guard services. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Sacks, O'Connor, Traczyk, Reddy, Gates, Barber, and Spatz  
 Nays: None  
 Motion passed.

#### **2.4.4 Approval of Paver Bid**

Reddy moved, seconded by Spatz, that the Board of Education, District 97, accept the paver bid for Julian Middle School. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Reddy, Spatz, Traczyk, Sacks, Gates, O'Connor, and Barber

Nays: None

Motion passed.

#### **2.4.5 Board Goals for 2011-12**

Board Goals were not an action item, therefore, they were discussed under Topic Reports.

### **TOPIC REPORTS**

#### **ANNUAL APPROVAL OF GRANTS**

O'Neill shared a brief description of the grants that the district applies for annually. She explained that a motion will be brought to the Board during the September 13 meeting seeking its approval for all grants during the 2011-12 school year.

TOPIC REPORTS

Felicia Starks-Turner presented a general overview of all after-school activities held on school property that are currently funded by grant dollars.

Board comments and suggestions included adding an additional column to the grant document that identifies local funding to the programs.

#### **EXISTING COMMITTEE CHARGES**

Chris Jasculca led a discussion on the existing committee charges. Some changes were identified. After a brief discussion, the Board agreed that chairpersons should be appointed by the Board for the first two-year term and selected by the committee members thereafter. The committee charges will return to the Board for approval during the September 13 meeting.

#### **C.L.A.I.M. UPDATE**

The updated C.L.A.I.M. charge was discussed. Member Gates will make the required changes and bring the document back for review on September 13.

#### **SCHOOL RECOGNITION APPLICATION**

It was reported that the School Recognition Applications will be brought to the table for approval during the September 13 meeting.

#### **NON-ENGAGEMENT OF NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND**

Dr. Roberts explained that the district annually receives requests from neighboring school districts to educate some of their children. It has been the practice of District 97 to deny these requests.

#### **BOARD GOALS**

President Barber led a discussion on the Board goals for 2011-12. Three goals were identified and a fourth goal "Understanding and guiding best practices regarding data usage and providing guidance to the administration" was recommended.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

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REPORT

Vice President Spatz was thanked for speaking at the opening ceremony for Institute Day in place of President Barber. Dr. Roberts shared some of the highlights from that meeting. He reported that the spirit of the staff was great and hopefully that indicates that the 2011-12 school year will be great.

Dr. Roberts suggested that the No Child Left Behind Program should be reviewed as 85 percent of the schools in Illinois are not meeting the goals of the program.

Dr. Roberts shared an electronic draft of his goals and requested individual Board feedback.

## **BOARD CONCERNS**

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Concern was expressed about external feedback regarding the repairs done to the facilities.

An e-mail was sent with multiple vision statements for the Board to review and discuss in the near future.

Concern was expressed regarding the Head-Start program moving into Hephzibah's facilities and being half the size of last year.

The redesign of the Illinois State Report Cards was discussed.

It was suggested that the Board should schedule a discussion of the technology infrastructure and the \$5 million technology plan.

It was suggested that the residency verification process be reviewed to determine the cost and the possibility of continuing this process annually.

It was suggested that an annual report from the Board of Education be distributed to the community and posted online.

It was suggested that class lists be placed on the Web site.

It was suggested that the district spending be discussed during a PTO Council meeting.

Dr. Jerry Weast will be speaking in Naperville. Information will be sent to the Board.

It was suggested that the Park District process be reviewed in regards to playground updates.

A technology committee was considered.

Concern was expressed regarding the funding of the Ethnic Festival.

It was suggested that Board members attend the first PTO meetings of the year. Sheryl Marinier will be asked to prepare a list of meeting dates and coordinate Board member attendance at these meetings.

A Community Forum is being considered during the first week in October.

**BOARD RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**BOARD RESPONSE  
TO PUBLIC  
COMMENT**

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to conduct, President Barber declared the meeting adjourned at 11:23 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday, September 13, 2011, beginning at 7 p.m. at the district office located at 970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Illinois.

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Board President

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Board Secretary